



# CAPTAIN ATOM



**VS.**

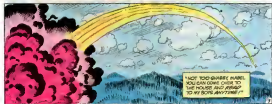
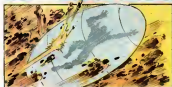
# FIRESTORM

## THE NUCLEAR MAN

BY  
BATES,  
BRODERICK  
AND  
SMITH











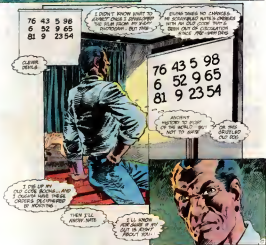












AND IF THAT SMALL PROBLEMWERE TRUE...

...THE AGENCY'S COMPUTER WAS PROGRAMMED WITH SEVERE PROTECTIVE DEVICE, DESIGNED BY CIPHERMAN'S OWNERS' ACCOUNT...

...IT WAS PROGRAMMED TO SLAY THOUSANDS OF COPIES OF CIPHERMAN'S RECORDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY...

...IT WILL  
PROBABLY BE  
SEEN THOUSANDS  
OF CHINESE  
SOLDIERS ACROSS  
THE COUNTRY.

AND LEFT OUT THE NAMES OF THOSE FELLOWS WHO APPEARED TO BE THE MOST FAVORABLE DISPOSITION.

CAN YOU GUARD AND TELL ME THE REST?

I THINK I CAN GUARD!

**I**

HE COMBINED HIS FATHER'S FANTASTIC COLOR AND LIGHT TECHNOLOGY INTO BEARING AWAYLY SIMILAR TO THE NO. ATTRIBUTED TO AN

BOY & BRIDG--  
ABOUT THE FANTASTIC  
COMICER ALBERT.

HE COMMITTED HIS  
FATHER'S FANTASTIC  
COLOR AND LIGHT  
TECHNOLOGY INTO  
WEDDING INSTANTLY  
SOMEUP TO THE M.O.  
ATTRIBUTED TO HIM  
REVEALED.

ONLY THING  
WAS... A COLORED  
CHECK REVEALED  
BRIDG HAD  
RECALLED IN  
AN OFFICE PERSON--

...AT THE  
SAME TIME  
HE SUFFERED  
WAS SUPPOSED  
TO BE MAKING  
HIS FIRST  
CIVILIZATION ONE  
WITH COMPLEX  
ALERT.

A BUNCH MORE.  
I THOUGHT...

... AT THE  
SAME TIME  
HE APPEARED  
TO BE WORKING  
FOR THE  
CLUBHOUSE ON  
THE OTHER  
SIDE.

1. **Introduction**  
 2. **Background**  
 3. **Methodology**  
 4. **Results**  
 5. **Conclusion**  
 6. **References**

LATE, DEEPER PROBABLY REVEALED FROM ENGLAND WAS A PARASITICITY WHO SUCCESSFULLY CAME INTO MONEY A FEW YEARS BACK --

MORE, THEN BROKE MONEY TO ME OFF ALL THE DATES

THE KING OF MONEY ARE SUCCESSFUL WOULD HAVE GROWN, REVEALS

THE HOP  
ON MONDAY THE  
COURT COULD  
HAVE DECIDED  
WHETHER IT

LOOK, LADY, IN MY  
BLACK JACKETRY I'VE WORNED  
A COUSIN ON THE STREET  
HE CONTINUABLE

I NEVER LOST SENSE  
ON BOY BRUCCIOLO ON HIS  
BEHAVIOR. PRIDE HE BECOM  
THAT PROBABLY NOT A GAY  
GAYED BOOTH

AND I NEVER HEARD  
OF TWO, DIRECTLY -  
BEFORE BEING



SO DO WE  
A BLACK PRINCE  
HEAD, LADY!

AND I NEVER ASKED  
OF THE FIVE, AND TWO -  
BUT THE OTHERS -

IF YOU'RE  
THE ONLY ONE  
WHO'S IT, YOU  
KNOW IT.

1. **Identify the main idea**  
 2. **Identify the supporting details**  
 3. **Identify the conclusion**



"I CAN'T BE POSITIVE  
YET, BUT I THINK THE  
SHOOT JUST MAY BE  
OUR SPECIALTY."

"HE'S AGREED  
TO DRIVE OUT TO  
HIGH-BYKLOD."

"YOU'RE  
NOT ENTERTAINING  
ME. I KNOW  
I'M NOT INTERESTING  
ENOUGH IN THE  
REVENUE."

"HE CLAIMS HE'S  
NOT ASHAMED OF A  
DISADVANTAGED  
REVENUE. THAT'S  
THE ONLY  
OTHER CASE OF  
A CASE LIKE A CASE  
SOURCE. HE'S."

"YOU ENJOYED  
THE CASHER'S  
CHECK?"

"MY  
JOBS ARE  
THESE."

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO YOU. I'M  
SURE YOU  
WILL BE."

"CHECK BACK WITH  
YOU LATER."

"THE DISCOVERY COMES AFTER  
THE FIRST. THE SECOND. THAT'S  
THE WAY WE SHOW YOU. DO THIS  
SLOT OF THIS."

"YOU  
CAN CALL  
ME NOW."

"YOU CAN  
CALL ME NOW."

"DO YOU  
UNDERSTAND  
WHAT I PUT  
THE LADY DOING  
BEHIND ME AND  
OPENED THE  
FOOD PARLOR."

"I HAVE NO  
PROSECUTION TOWARD  
CAPTAIN ATOM  
THESE DAYS. JUST  
SOME ADVICE."

"BROOK BAKER ORIGINALLY  
DESIGNED ENTERTAINMENT, COLOR  
AND LIGHT DEVICES IN AN ATTEMPT  
TO ASSIST HIS SON'S  
REVENUE ADVENTURES.  
CORRECT?"

"THE  
PROFESSOR ALWAYS  
BLAMED HIMSELF  
FOR JED'S CHANGING  
CAREER-ALPHABET. SOME  
ADVICE ABOUT  
BASKING IN  
DETECTIVE GAMES."

"ANYWAY, WHEN  
WAS I 7' ON TEAM. SO  
WHEN JED DID THAT  
RIGHT TEAM-HEAD STRETCH  
IN THE SHAMMER AFTER  
HIS EARLY ADVENTURE  
ORDER GIVE."

"I FELT WELL --  
IN A BASKING LINE  
HOW COULD I  
HIMSELF HOW TO USE  
ALL THAT TECHNOLOGY  
FOR CRIME --"

"-- THEN  
BY GOD, SO  
COULD I."

WELL, SURE, JORDAN HAD AN AIRCRAFT. BUT THERE'S AN AIRCRAFT MADE UP OF OTHERS, TOO...

AND SINCE YOU RECENTLY RETURNED TO THE WORLD THAT WE'RE IN, AND CAPTAIN JORDAN HAS AN AIRCRAFT, I'D SAY THAT HE BECAME A SUPER-HERO...

...AND SPECIFICALLY, YOU ACCEPTED OUR INVITATION TO BE ON HAND TO INTRODUCE THIS NEW AIRCRAFT TO THE PUBLIC.

I AM HONORED TO BE ASKED, GENERAL CRAWFORD.

NOT TO MENTION, CRAWFORD DOES ASK THEM. I'VE GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO BUT PLAY SECOND FIDDLE TO A DE-CLASSIFIED MARK OF FLYING MACHINES?

HE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE READY TO ME.

WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE IS A GUY WHO FALL INTO A LOT OF MOTION. HE'S CAPTAIN.

NOT SURE THAT PUTS ON IN THE AIR FORCE AND YOU IN THE SAME BUSINESS. CAPTAIN JORDAN.

—THE BUSINESS OF KEEPING AMERICA FREE.

WELL, SURE, SURE?

IT IS OUR MORE THAT ARE ADDITIONS TO OUR DEFENSE SYSTEM—LIKE THE AIR-OF-UNIFORMS—WILL LET OUR ENEMIES KNOW WHAT SORT OF WEAPONS THEY WILL BE FIGHTING AGAINST. THEY'VE GOT TO ATTACK US.

THIS SORT OF WEAPONS, IF YOU ASK ME, NOW DO ASK SUPER-HEROES. AND THAT'S THE SORT OF WEAPONS WE'VE GOT TO HAVE.

HE DIDN'T LOOK SO TIGHT. AFTER.

ALL THAT TALK ABOUT GIVING THE GOVERNMENT THAT.

IT'S LIKE TALKING ABOUT GIVING THE GOVERNMENT THAT.

JUST ONCE.

...BUT ONCE I MADE THE  
DECISION TO FOLLOW IN BOB'S  
FOOTSTEPS, AS IT WERE, I  
KNEW SOMEBODY IN I HAD TWO  
MAJOR ADVANTAGES OVER  
THE PROFESSIONALS  
BOTH

ONE, SINCE  
I COULDN'T REMEMBER, I  
HAD SEEN A PULLMAN  
LOT-JANITOR THERE  
BOB

AND TWO,  
I WAS ABLE TO  
LEAVE FROM THE  
HOSPITAL, AND  
HE HAD HAD  
SCOTT?

LIKE THE  
MAGAZINE "WINTER  
JOURNAL" BY  
T. BURNING

WAS ATTRACT A  
LOT OF ATTENTION  
TO YOURSELF  
WITH A PUBLIC  
ALIAS AND A  
SPECULATIVE  
COURTESY?

IN A  
WORLD ALREADY  
CRAM-POURED  
WITH ALIAS-HANDS  
AND COONS IN  
COURTESY... DOING  
THAT WOULD BE  
KIND OF SENSE?

THAT'S WHY  
WAS BOB—ONCE  
I DECIDED MY  
ALIAS WOULD BE  
"BOB BURNING"

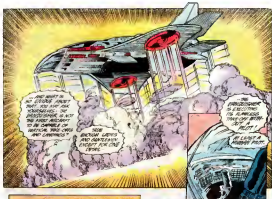
I DECIDED  
ON A RADICAL  
ALIAS—ONE FOR MY  
HONOR BURNING—I  
WOULD ONLY DRINK  
IN BURNING

LARGE  
CONSUMPTIONS  
"BOB BURNING" WAS  
A COUNTRY. THEY  
HAD A LOT OF  
BOB?

IT SEEMED LIKE  
A TERRIBLE IDEA  
AT THE TIME

BUT THEY I  
WASN'T OUT THERE  
AND BOB BURNING  
WASN'T UNDER  
COVER AT THE  
SAME TIME

...A JOURNAL-BOB  
WHO CALLED  
HIMSELF "BOB  
BURNING"



"AND WHAT IS  
NOT GOING ABOUT  
THIS? YOU ARE THE  
HIGHEST-LEVEL. THE  
HIGHEST-LEVEL. IS NOT  
THE FIRST AIRCRAFT  
TO BE CAPTURED BY  
JAPANESE, BUT ONLY  
AND CAPTURED?"

"THE  
JAPANESE LIVES  
AND CAPTURED  
ENEMY FOR ONE  
THING."

"THE  
JAPANESE  
IS ALREADY  
THE ALREADY  
THE CAPTURED  
A PILOT!"

"I'LL GET A  
PILOT FROM  
THE JAPANESE."



"A JAPANESE  
PILOT CAPTURED  
BY THE JAPANESE  
SAFETY-PILOT."

"OUR  
SAFETY-PILOT  
IS THE  
HIGHEST-LEVEL  
PILOT."

"IT HAS BEEN  
RECOMMENDED  
TO PUT THE AIRCRAFT  
THROUGH FOR  
PILOT."

"THE  
JAPANESE LIVES  
AND CAPTURED  
ENEMY FOR ONE  
THING."



"THE SAFETY-PILOT  
IS THE  
HIGHEST-LEVEL  
PILOT."

"SAFETY-PILOT"

"CAPTURED  
PILOT - CAPTURED  
THE JAPANESE  
PILOT."

"WHAT IS  
NOT GOING  
ON IT  
CAPTURED?"

"PILOT!"



"THE  
JAPANESE LIVES  
AND CAPTURED  
ENEMY FOR ONE  
THING."

"I'LL GET A  
PILOT FROM  
THE JAPANESE."









WELL SO, PROFESSOR...  
BUT THAT WAS ONE LOUD  
FIRST APPROACH!



THE MIRROR'S STILL NOT  
ON THE PROFESSOR'S  
TEAR... BUT NOT  
FOR LONG!

TWO  
PROFESSOR-ARMED  
ROBOTICISTS  
COUNT TO 30 THE...



I DARE! I DON'T  
WANT THEM CLOSELY  
OBSERVING! BACK  
THEIR... NO!



YOU'RE  
OUT OF YOUR  
DEPTH HERE...  
AND YOU'RE  
OUT OF YOUR  
LEADER!

JUST  
GO HOME!

YOU  
WANT ME  
PLAY  
ALONG?



I LIKE  
PLAYING  
ALONG.  
OLD MAN!

BEHOLD, I'M  
JUST GETTING  
WARMED-UP!

SO  
WARMED-UP.  
CAPTAIN A-



WE'VE DONE  
JOCK--  
--HE'S  
DOWN, JOCK!



OH, LORD!

WHAT A SPECTACLE!

CAN'T SEE THAT—EITHER ONE OF THEM!

THEY'RE GOING!



SORRY ABOUT THAT QUARTER JACKED BACK THERE—I FIGURED IT WOULD BRING SOME GEAR AND YOU AFTER IT KNOCKED YOU OUTSIDE.

HOPE I WAS RIGHT.

LOSER...



YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF PILES, SO I'VE GOT...

YOU GOT ME OUT OF COMMISSION SO YOU COULD HAVE YOUR NUMBERS PLAY TO—

TO HAVE THE ONE?

NOT EVEN CLOSE! NOT THE REASON WHY I'M HERE!



THAT "MISSED" WAS A DIFFERENT MESS!

IT WAS FIRST OF THE DESTRUCTION—TO SHOW OFF FOR THE MESS, NOW THE JACKET—A LITTLE MORE COULD PERFORM SOME MANUVERS IN A SIMULATED CONTEXT?

WHEN YOU SHOWED UP, THE MESS ASKED ME TO STOP YOU FROM NOTCHING UP THE HORROR!



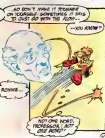
SO THAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO MAKE ME LOOK LIKE A FIDELITY TRAITOR IN FRONT OF THE PUBLIC? THE MESS?

COOL DOWN, AND THIS TIME I'LL BE FORGOTTEN.

AND IF YOU DON'T BRING A LITTLE RESPECT...



—LEAVING ME? PURE, SUPER-HEROISM IS A DIFFERENT BUSINESS—



—SO DON'T WASTE IT THROTTLED ON YOURSELF, SOMETIMES IT'S BETTER TO JUST GO WITH THE FLOW...

—YOU JERK?

ACHIEVE...

NOT ONE WORD, PROFESSOR, NOT ONE WORD!



HURRY THINK ABOUT THAT  
SQUID, SARD AND THE GLOWING  
EYES, OK, BUDDY...

TOGETHER THEY DO A GREAT  
JOB OF KEEPING YOUR MINDSET  
FROM JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING

ALWAYS  
BROODING



I'VE BEEN AND  
WOUND MYSELF TO  
BE PERFECTLY  
IMPROVED BY  
YOUR STORY  
AND STORY



AND YOUR OWN  
GREAT DISTANCE  
TO ME?



WOW, EVEN HERE'S  
THE JEFFREY AS  
PROBABLY MY OWN  
GREATNESS!



YOU'RE NOT A JERK TO ME...  
YOUR MINDSET ONLY JUST PROBABLY  
WAS LOST!

YOU ALSO  
NOT THAT  
BUT?

NOW THAT I  
USE YOUR PHONE!  
I'M SUPPOSED TO  
CHECK IN WITH  
AN ASSOCIATE  
IN BARRINGTON



FOR A WHIMSED JERK...  
YOU CAN CALL TONIGHT!

MEANTIME I'LL START  
PUTTING SOME OF THIS  
HI-TECH MACHINERY  
AHEAD

YES  
AND  
DON'T  
YOU



IT'S  
ALL  
LATER  
CALLING TO  
CHECK IT...

JUST  
LATER...  
ON MY WAY  
TO THE  
DELIVER!

THE  
DECOMPOSITION  
SCHEME IS ALREADY  
FOR MY OWN  
PROFIT!

IT'S  
GIVEN  
AFTER!



# LETTERS TO CAPTAIN ATOM

DC COMICS INC.  
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Dear Denny:

I'm impressed!

Dick Giordano stated in a recent magazine that Cary Bates was efficient, revealing himself and proving all over again how he was more than a capable writer and his work on *Captain Atom* distinguishes itself that I was expecting to be. But now, just on the basis of the first two issues, I'm looking forward to continuing this letter. Cary is handling a new being job on the DC version of the Captain!

So far, Bates has taken all the intensity that a transformation in him would cause and without overdoing it shows the courage and commitment of Nathaniel Adams as he comes to grips with the resulting culture shock. The humor in the first two issues, not quite concealing the loss of the old feeling, portrayed the Captain as a likable human being, not just another superhero in silver armor. And there seems to be a silent resentment at his predicament. Confronting his despotic father, and with good reason. The man "killed" him and stole his family. But Nathaniel also resents being turned into a super-hero. Adams is not so upset on this point, he will be shown through his respect, having been a career military man before the good Captain has taken over for this group of super-heroes who serve and protect their country without the benefit of superpowers leaving orders. It will be interesting to see if Cary pursues this angle or if he simply reading too much into the narrative.

Before I forget, let me also congratulate Pat Bradstreet on the best artwork of his career. *LOOPS OF THE ULTRA-REALM* was good, but *CAPTAIN ATOM* is better. *Smiley* looks go to *Bob Smith*, *Carl Gifford*, and *John Costanza* for superior work on what I certainly hope will be a long-running series.

Richard D'Neil, it is your responsibility to see that the five gentlemen mentioned above continue in the same vein they have started. But having been with you since your *JUSTICE LEAGUE* days, I know that I have time to wait.

Damn, I'm impressed!

C.P. Cagle  
8134 North Chapel Street  
Memphis, TN 37130

Should be the last words, C.P., and you can rest assured that Denny has every intention of keeping the good Captain a book and as a result, that is a superior quality level! I think that you will soon see an essential element in the comic when you consider the psychological make-up of Captain Atom and his ability to take

order. You're absolutely right when you say that other super-heroes generally don't have to put up with anything that enters from a superior. In fact, the very reason is going to give the Captain some interesting problems and make this book truly unique reading, as they say!

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Denny:

I don't know why I waited two months before writing, but I had to tell you that after reading *CAPTAIN ATOM* 2, I think you have a winner on your hands. I like this new Captain Atom for the opposite reasons that I do any DC's revival of the Blue Beetle. With BB there is no need to update the character as he fits into the current DC Universe quite comfortably. *Captain Atom* on the other hand, with a lot of significant events in the 1960's. Clearly something had to be done to make him a viable character for the modern 1980's.

Cary Bates and Pat Bradstreet have to update a fascinating new origin for Nathaniel Adams, one which makes him much more rounded as a character and more interesting. The "husband in time" bit has been done before, of course, but already it is obvious that Cary has a better handle on the theme than many writers before him. As with all good origin stories, this one poses at least as many questions as it answers. And the idea of keeping the Creative origin in place as a comic story is placed the public in the DC Universe is a really cool touch. As it is from those days, I appreciate the gimmick, especially since it works so well within the new origin scenario.

The personal problems that arose with an inadequate word to describe the situation that Nathaniel Adams faces, with his wife married to his former enemy, should give Cary ample opportunity to do the human interest theme he so excels at. I really am looking forward to the emotional events that will surely be forthcoming. The outer shock Adams suffers in his gaudy dealings will provide those share of light-hearted moments as well as the greatest ones. His actual encounter with the super-villainous community was a good one. Fleasque was quickly dealt with, as it should be. One on one she isn't really in the Captain's class. But Cary did well to show how her fanaticism can prove a super-hero with a sensible dilemma. The careers by the other DC heroes will really come

and thanks for the Beetle thoughts on page one.

Steve Cox  
50 Whitcombe Road  
Warrington, Cheshire  
WARR, CH, ENGLAND

Cary's decision to incorporate the Creative origin into the new DC story line seems to have struck a favorable chord with many of you. Quite a few of you wrote in pressing Cary's urgency for playing off of the older origin. Actually, what's becoming very clear, eating for us at the office, is asking how drastically your letters are lowering the personal problems Nathaniel Adams suffers through out of costume. An overwhelming majority of the letters are re-emphasizing continuously constant on Nathaniel as person. Apparently, *Dele* you're not alone in wanting to see the best there is, more deeply into the humanity of its central characters.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Denny:

*CAPTAIN ATOM* is another great addition to the DC Comics line. Cary is truly a great writer. Pat is a person added to the story's greatness. Now for some questions:

1. Was there be any more to his origin from the last page?
2. Will there be any *CAPTAIN ATOM* *PRISONER* crossover?
3. How about using some of my favorite villains like *Chemo*, *Blind Dogfish*, *Black Adam* or *Rabot*?

Jerry Davis  
81 Bakard Street  
West Union, OH 43080

Well, Jerry, I'll tell you:

- (1) What you see is what you get.
- (2) I hope that the very action and/or your questions.
- (3) You can look for *Chemo* to reappear courtesy of Superman and the *Steel* in *ACT OF VIOLENCE*. Also look for *Blind Dogfish* in the pages of the *SUBZERO* *ISSUES* 1 and 2, while *Black Adam* is currently making a public in the new *Captain Marvel* *SHAZAM!* miniseries. Finally, *Rabot* is scheduled to reappear shortly in the pages of *CUT* *ISSUES* 21 and 22. For God, Four for four. Why says DC doesn't love you?

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Denny:

Thanks for bringing *CAPTAIN ATOM* back.

That very sound like an odd image, coming from someone who has



never read a Captain Atom story in his life before now.

I just finished reading issue #2 and I'm starting to get a better feel for Nate Mogate and General Eling. I'm enjoying the book immensely.

So, thanks for bringing the Captain back. I might not have known what I'd missed if you hadn't.

Rich Barbo, Jr.  
2048 E. Bristol Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19148-0049

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Gerry:

CAPTAIN ATOM has done splendidly to me that no other comic has done. It actually makes me believe that the action is happening right in front of me. Cary Bates and Pat Broderick bring this book alive. Cary's writing skills are up to par and Pat's art is some of his best.

If issue #3 was perfect I thought that #2 couldn't be better. Hal Greth, wrong! I loved the fact that Canada was involved. With recent FLD movements in Quebec, Plastique is appropriate. Students have been better planned! The telepathic flu-

book were the reactions of the other super heroes. If the Captain and Free tomorrow meet, it'll be an hoping for an unlikely alliance between the two.

Paul Bellente  
1444 Champion Street  
Daguer, N.B.  
E1A 1P4 CANADA

*The ability of the Captain is dealt with a realistic, international on his expanded is a lot of readers. However, sometimes that realism becomes all too real at times in our mind later.*

Dear Archie Dren

Comic stores featuring Quebec separatist terrorists are definitely a lot chilling to me, since they represent a real (if hopefully remote) danger to the people of Canada in everyday life. Just today the bridges across the Cote d'Ivoire American border were closed for a time after a bomb threat was received from someone claiming to be from the PLO, the Quebec separatist terrorist organization of the 1980's and 70's.

Sell this in "only" a comic book store and if I were Plastique I'd just another

super villain leading a group of its trained mercenaries, it would prove well. Plastique was chillingly dangerous and Captain Atom's escape from her trap demonstrated the greatness of his powers.

Yours truly  
TM Mogate  
Windsor, Ontario  
M9A 3Y6 CANADA

*I think you raise an interesting point about what "realist" is here. I AM an earlier issue in this column considered Plastique to be a misanthropic foe and not of the Captain's league largely because her powers were lacking in comparison to his. O.K., maybe there weren't too super-powered figure toppling buildings or decimating cars at each other in this story. However, when you consider the ramifications that a well-planned, strategic, terrorist operation could have on daily civilian lives, it quickly becomes apparent that Captain Atom did indeed find her. It's a heavy complex issue of mine. Luckily, he rose to the occasion as a true hero should.*

#### FROM THE DEN

If Nelson Brubaker will be recognized elsewhere, of course, but I think he would like to be remembered here in a solid form.

Nelson was, after all one of the world's greatest authorities on the American comic book—maybe the greatest. He was the man you now when you had a question about continuity, personnel, history—anything that concerned this narrative form. Whenever I got a job that required my writing about comics, he was the first person I thought of, the first person I called when I got stuck. I never had to make a second call. If the information wanted Nelson had it. And he was willing to share it, without reserve.

without major acknowledgment. He was as generous with his time and his expertise as anyone I ever met.

A lot of people know that Nelson was a virtual walking encyclopedia of comic lore. But not many know that he was almost as knowledgeable concerning Shakespeare, the Bible and mythology. He had more than a casual acquaintance with classic literature, movies, the pulps. I suspect that Nelson knew many more things than I simply never had occasion to discuss with him.

He was also kind and extraordinarily decent. I knew him for nearly 20 years and in all that time I never heard him malign anyone—not because he had no reason to. He was sometimes taken for granted, sometimes badly treated, both by people he worked for

and by nature itself. His health was never good, and he was in and out of hospitals frequently. But he had a rare and wonderful kind of courage, accepting suffering and rejection without bitterness, without complaint or self-pity. He made the best of what he had and lived the best life he could.

He is gone now. He died in January of last summer. It was a really cruel death because he was not a smoker and he had had nothing-but-but-but all I can say. But I won't forget him and I hope I'll be able to follow his example. If I can, I'll be a better man.

DEN HAY

#### NEXT ISSUE:

**TOM EMERY KEEPS HIS PROMISE...  
WITH A VENGEANCE!**

**THE STORY: "A PIECE OF A LIE!"**

**THE PREDICTION: YOU WON'T FORGET  
THIS ONE FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.**

**THE MAGAZINE: CAPTAIN ATOM #6,  
ON SALE MAY 28 AT BETTER RETAIL  
OUTLETS EVERYWHERE.**

